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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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10 SEP 1984

His Excellency Zhang Aiping
Minister of National Defense
People's Republic of China

Dear Colleague:

I have reviewed in detail the results of the very successful and productive trip to China by Secretary of the Navy Lehman. In particular, I note with pleasure your agreement to allow visits by U.S. Navy ships commencing in 1985, and I support fully the formation of a joint technology working group to assist the PLA Navy with the modernization of existing ships and development of plans for a new destroyer/frigate. A navy dimension to the existing U.S.-China Military Technology Working Group is a welcome addition.

Also, I want to confirm and support the invitation, extended by Secretary Lehman to PLA Navy Commander, Liu Huaqing, to visit the United States in early 1985. A formal invitation for the visit will be issued shortly.

The exchange of visits by senior military leaders, such as your visit to the United States and Secretary Lehman's visit to China, does a great deal to further understanding on both sides. In this regard, I hope that General Vessey will be able to visit China at an early date. As the senior uniformed officer in the United States, his visit is important for setting the tone for subsequent visits by other senior military leaders.

Your visit to the United States and Secretary Lehman's visit have done much to put our military-to-military relationship on a firm footing. I look forward to meeting with you again in the future. As you approach the anniversary of the People's Republic of China, Mrs. Weinberger and I wish you success and happiness.

Aspen W. Weinberger